

Therefore, at entry of this paper, Claims 1-10 and 12-26 remain pending in the application for further consideration and examination.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

In the "Disposition of Claims" Section of the Office Action Summary, Claims 1-10 and 12-26 were indicated as being allowed. Applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claims 1-10 and 12-26.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC §102 - TRAVERSED

The rejection of Claim 11 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Rosendahl *et al.* (US Patent 5,452,414) is respectfully traversed. However, unrelated to any prior art rejection, the present cancellation of Claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer has rendered such rejection and traversal arguments moot at this point in time. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 11 is respectfully requested.

SURRENDER OF LETTERS PATENT

In view of the cancellation of Claim 11, the only claim standing rejected or objected to for any reason in the present application, and all remaining Claims 1-10 and 12-26 being indicated as allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that this Amendment places the present application in complete condition for allowance. To avoid any further unnecessary delays for Office correspondence regarding the outstanding formalities, Applicant hereby surrenders the original, sealed Letters Patent.

SECOND REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF DRAWING REQUIREMENTS

Attached to the Office Action mailed 14 September 1999 was a Form PTO-948. However, the Form PTO-948 received by Applicant has been examined

thoroughly and is completely blank. Also, no information or requirement regarding the drawings was given in the 14 September 1999 Office Action. Therefore, in the Request for Clarification and Restart of Period for Response filed 19 October 2001, Applicant requested clarification of the outstanding drawing requirements in the present application. However, the restarted Office Action mailed 3 January 2002 does not refer either to Applicant's Request or to any formalities regarding the Figures in the instant case. Applicant again respectfully requests a written notification of either (1) approval of the drawings filed with the application on 25 September 1997, or (2) a Form PTO-948 substantially legible enough for Applicant to determine the properly-applied objections to the drawings.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is herein invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone 703-312-6600, to discuss any Examiner's Amendments or other suggested actions for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims listed above as presently being under consideration in the application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is being filed within the shortened statutory period set by the Office Action, and therefore, no Petition for extension of time or fee are required. To whatever other extent is necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection

with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to
ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (as Order No. 500.30789R00).

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT:

Sealed Letters Patent Certificate No. 5,454,073